Application Serial No: 10/679,687 In reply to Office Action of 23 March 2004

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

- 1. (Cancelled)
- 2. (Currently amended) The A device in accordance with claim 1 for countering an underwater target, said device further comprising:

## a module;

- at least one inflatable section joined to said module;
- at least one propulsor extendable from said module, said

  propulsor capable of maneuvering said module to a

  firing position; and
- a gun partially encompassed by said module for firing at

  least one projectile from the firing position to

  counter the underwater target.
- 3. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 2, wherein said inflatable portion includes a plurality of inflatable chambers distributed around a perimeter of said module.

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4. (Currently amended) The A device in accordance with claim 1 for countering an underwater target, said device further comprising:

an autonomous module;

- at least one propulsor extendable from said module, said propulsor capable of maneuvering said module to a firing position;
- a gun partially encompassed by said module for firing at

  least one projectile from the firing position to

  counter the underwater target; and
- means for <u>acoustically</u> detecting the underwater target,

  <u>said means</u> operably joined to said module, said

  propulsor and said gun.
- 5. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 3, said device further comprising means for detecting the underwater target operably joined to said module, said propulsor and said gun.

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- 6. (Cancelled)
- 7. (Cancelled)
- 8. (Cancelled)
- 9. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 3, wherein said device further comprises means for clearing said gun with compressed air.
- 10. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 4, wherein said device further comprises means for clearing said gun with compressed air.
- 11. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 5, wherein said device further comprises means for clearing said gun with compressed air.
- 12. (Cancelled)
- 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) A method for countering an underwater target comprising the steps of:

providing [a] <u>an autonomous</u> hydrodynamic module having at least one propulsor and a gun;

deploying said hydrodynamic module;

acoustically detecting the underwater target;

deploying said at least one propulsor;

maneuvering said module with said at least one propulsor to a firing position; and

firing said gun from the firing position thereby countering the underwater target.

15. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said firing step further comprises clearing said gun with compressed air.

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16. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 15, wherein said firing step further comprises subsequently firing at the underwater target after clearing said gun

## 17. (Cancelled)

- 18. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 16, further comprising the step of recovering said hydrodynamic module subsequent to said firing step.
- 19. (Currently amended) The method in accordance with claim
  [18] 16, further comprising the step of sinking said
  hydrodynamic module to a bottom of a body of water subsequent to
  said firing step.

## 20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The method in accordance with claim 16, said method comprising the further step of inflating chambers around the perimeter of said hydrodynamic module in order to maneuver said hydrodynamic module.

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